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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/703,802	11/02/2000	Naoki Koga	43890-455	2159

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EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/703,802

Applicant(s)

KOGA ET AL.

Examiner

Paul H. Kang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Examiner Sajid Yussuf is no longer assigned to the present patent application. This application is now assigned to Examiner Paul H. Kang. In examining this patent application, full faith and credit has been given to the search and action of the previous examiner. MPEP § 719.05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akatsu et al., United States Patent No. 6,505,255.

4. As per claim 1, Akatsu discloses a network connection apparatus comprising: at least one a first interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting to an external network, (col. 6, lines 40-67) a plurality of second interface units including plural types of physical layers for connecting to an internal network (col. 6, lines 40-67), and a controller for controlling said at least one first interface unit and said plurality of second interface units (the home gateway 504 controls home network devices and enables communication to the external network or to internal the internal network, see col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 2), wherein one of said second interface units is capable of independent operation from said at least one first interface unit, and said controller transmits and receives information among said plurality of second interface units (Devices connected on the internal network, such as personal computer 524 and TV adapter 604, communicate among each other through the home gateway, See col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 2).

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5. As to claim 2, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein at least one of said second interfaces units is a detachable module (See Figure 5 Item 534).

6. As to claim 3, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said module is detachable through a slot conforming to a PC card standard (See Figure 5 Item 564).

7. As to claim 4, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein the information to be transmitted and received between said first interface unit and one of said second interface units, or between a plurality of said second interface units includes isochronous data (See col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 60-67).

8. As to claim 5, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said second interface unit has a transmission speed of 10 Mbps or more (See Column 6, Lines 55-67).

9. As to claim 6, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said controller exclusively controls said second interface unit (See Column 6, Lines 55-67).

10. As to claim 7, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said at least one second interface unit has buffer memory for lessening the variation in transmission speed difference (See Column 7, lines 4-18).

11. As to claim 8, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said first interface unit incorporates a cable modem (col. 6, lines 40-67 and col. 7, lines 1-18).

12. As to claim 9, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said first interface unit uses a telephone line and incorporates a modem (col. 6, lines 40-67 and col. 7, lines 1-18).

13. As to claim 10, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein one of said second interface units is a wireless interface unit separated from a main body of the network connection apparatus (col. 6, lines 40-67 and col. 7,

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lines 1-18).

14. As to claim 11, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus wherein said wireless interface unit may be provided with an antenna (col. 6, lines 40-67 and col. 7, lines 1-18).

15. As to claim 12, Akatsu teaches a network connection apparatus comprising:

at least one a first interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting to an external network (See column 6, lines 40-67)

a plurality of second interface units including plural types of physical layers for connecting to an internal network (See column 6, lines 40-67);

an acquired information saver for saving information acquired from the external network, and

a controller for controlling said at least one first interface unit and said plurality of second interface units (See column 6, lines 40-67);

wherein one of said second interface units is capable of independent operation from said at least one first interface unit, and said controller transmits and receives information between said at least one first interface unit and said at least one second interface unit, or between a plurality of said second interface units (See column 6, lines 21-65 and col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 2), and acquires desired information by accessing the external network through said at least one first interface unit (See column 7, lines 21-65), and saves the information in said acquired information saver (i.e. memory, See column 8, lines 3-34).

16. As to claim 13, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a connection request information saver for saving the connection request information from a client connected to said second interface unit, wherein said controller acquires the information to be saved in said acquired information saver by accessing the external network through said first interface unit on the basis of the information stored in said connection request information saver (column 9, 1-30).

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17. As to claim 14, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising display means, wherein said display means indicates storage of the information in said acquired information saver (column 14, lines 35-65).

18. As to claim 15, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein the information stored in said acquired information saver is isochronous data (column 10, lines 1-9).

19. As to claim 16, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein said acquired information saver is a detachable module (Figure 5, item 534).

20. As to claim 17, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising access information applying means for providing a client connected to said second interface unit with information about access, wherein said controller further provides said client with the information about access by said access information applying means when it is recognized that the client is connected to said second interface unit (column 12, lines 35-64).

21. As to claim 18, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus of, wherein the information about access is at least IP address (column 12, lines 35-64).

22. As to claim 19, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein the number of EP addresses is variable, and the number of connected clients is controlled (column 12, lines 35-67 and column 13, lines 1-37).

23. As to claim 20, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising access information acquiring means for acquiring information about access from an Internet service provider connected through said first interface unit, wherein said controller further acquires the information about access from said access information acquiring means when it is recognized that said first interface unit is connected to the Internet service provider (column 12, lines 35-67 and column 13, lines 1-37).

24. As to claim 21, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein said access information acquiring means acquires the information about access from said Internet service provider, relating to media access control (MAC)

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address of the client connected to said second interface unit (column 12, lines 35-64).

25. As to claim 22, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein the information about access is at least IP address (column 12, lines 35-64).

26. As to claim 23, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising access information acquiring means for acquiring information about first access from an Internet service provider connected through said first interface unit, and access information applying means for providing a client connected to said second interface unit with information about second access, wherein said controller further acquires the information about first access from said access information acquiring means when it is recognized that said first interface unit is connected to the Internet service provider, and provides said client with the information about second access by said access information applying means when it is recognized that the client is connected to said second interface unit (column 13, lines 1-55).

27. As to claim 24, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein said access information acquiring means acquires the information about access from said Internet service provider, relating to media access control (MAC) address of the client connected to said second interface unit (column 19, lines 10-36).

28. As to claim 25, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein the information about first access is a first IP address, and the information about second access is a second EP address (column 13, lines 1-55).

29. As to claim 26, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, wherein the number of second EP addresses is variable, and the number of connected clients is controlled (column 19, lines 10-43).

30. As to claim 27, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising IP address varying means for translating said first IP address and second EP address (column 13, lines 1-55).

31. As to claim 28, Akatsu teaches the network connection apparatus, further comprising IP address varying means for translating said first IP address and second IP address (See Column 13 Lines 1-55).

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 7, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicants argued in substance that the prior art of record "discloses only that the personal computer 524-946 (alleged second interface unit) is connected to the *external network* 904 via the I/P over 1394 link 612 (see, Figs 6 and 11). As such, Akatsu is completely silent as to connecting the personal computer 524-916 to an *internal network*."

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Akatsu teaches a home network and a home gateway, linking the external network to the internal network. The home gateway allows devices connected to the home network to communicate to external devices, such as an ISP, through an external network, such as the Internet. However, contrary to applicants' interpretation of Akatsu, the prior art teaches the home gateway controls the devices connected to it, as well as enabling communication among those devices (See Akatsu, col. 7, lines 25-59 and col. 7, line 60 – col. 8, line 2). Hence, the system of Akatsu teaches each and every limitation of the instant invention as claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


PAUL H. KANG
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER